

29th January 1923]

V

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

(1)

The SECRETARY laid on the table the proceedings of the fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth meetings for 1922-23 of the Standing Finance Committee of the Madras Legislative Council held on the 16th and 20th December 1922, and 5th, 8th and 9th January 1923, respectively.*

(2)

The SECRETARY also laid on the table the audit report on the accounts of the Madras Presidency for 1921-22 and the first report of the Public Accounts Committee on the audit report for 1921-22.†

VI

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1922-23.

Grant VIII.

The hon. Sir K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, I move—

That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 6,608 under 22. General Administration—on account of Translators to Government.

"There are two items composing the sum of Rs. 6,608 to which I wish to refer. One item is a sum of Rs. 2,108 which is required for the leave allowances of translators, which were under-estimated in the Budget. We made a provision of Rs. 1,020 for the purpose. But three translators applied for leave and we were obliged to grant it. Consequently we have to pay more under the head of leave allowances; that accounts for a sum of Rs. 2,108.

"The other item is with reference to the Hindustani Translator. The House will probably remember that the Hindustani translatorship was held till recently by a military officer. It was classed as non-votable in the Budget. It is not now so held, and the Accountant-General has advised that we must take the vote of the House for the purpose of paying the salary or acting salary of those who are now doing the duties of the Hindustani Translator. Finding, therefore, that we cannot utilise a non-votable item for the purpose of paying the salaries of those who are doing the duties of the Hindustani Translator, which is now according to the Accountant-General a votable item, I have to come before the House for a formal vote."

The motion was put and carried, and the grant was made.

Grant XXVII.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—" Sir, I beg to move—

That the Government be granted a sum of Rs. 24,082 under the head
 11-30 a.m. 41. Provincial Civil Works—Reserved—Residences of the Governor.

"Sir, this item relates to what is technically known as minor original works. The total of Rs. 24,082 which I now ask for is made up of two different items. The first item relates to a sum of Rs. 6,582, being payment

* Vide Appendix F, G, H, I and J at pages 1351, 1354, 1357, 1358, 1361 *infra*.

† Printed separately.

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Grant XXVII—cont..

for work done last year, and the second item relates to a sum of Rs. 17,500 for new minor works which were found necessary in the current year.

“With regard to the second item of Rs. 17,500, I may explain that it is perhaps not in the ordinary sense such an unforeseen demand as usually comes before this House for supplementary grants. At the time when the Budget was prepared, we knew that the Military Secretary had a considerable list of minor works which ought to be put forward. But at that time we were bound by a rule of the Secretary of State, communicated to us in 1921, by which the Local Government could not, without the sanction of the Secretary of State, provide for an expenditure over Rs. 25,000 in the Budget of any one year. Therefore, we provided for only Rs. 25,000 and restricted ourselves to that figure, thereby leaving out a certain number of works which the Military Secretary wanted. Meanwhile we had been in correspondence with the Secretary of State about this matter of not being able to provide more than Rs. 25,000 with the result that he sanctioned the raising of the figure from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 50,000. At the time when the Budget was prepared, we also protested that the sum of Rs. 25,000 was, from our experience, not sufficient. But we received only in August last the sanction of the Secretary of State raising the limit from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 50,000. Here, I may say that by raising the limit to Rs. 50,000, we are really raising the capital value of the Governor's residence. The Military Secretary now presses for some of the items which were cut in the Budget last year and wants that provision should be made for them during the current year. There are six items which make a total of Rs. 19,300. Out of this, Rs. 13,000 relate to the lighting of halls in front which are very dark and certain other improvements which are really more in the nature of maintenance than in the nature of original works. Another sum of nearly Rs. 5,000 relates to the water-supply and nursery of the Government House gardens. This sum is intended to prevent the waste of water and to make it available in larger quantities to the garden. There is also a small item of about Rs. 2,000 for improvements to servants' quarters. Thus the total comes to Rs. 19,300. It is most likely that this whole sum may not be spent before the end of March. We propose to devote Rs. 17,500 this year.

“The other item of Rs. 6,582, relating to some minor works, was awaiting sanction of the Secretary of State, and, as the Secretary of State has now communicated his orders, it is competent for the Government to sanction this expenditure. Therefore this sum is put up in the form of a supplementary grant, in order that we may pay the bill for the work done last year. Thus the total amount which I ask for is Rs. 24,082.”

MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“Sir, the hon. the Home Member has given us a list of items of work which have gone to contribute to the extra expenditure of Rs. 24,000 and odd. I wish to know whether the Government at the time when the budget was passed, had no intention to keep themselves within the budget limits. Therefore I wish to know when the Government passed orders to take this work in hand, whether it was long after the budget was passed or almost immediately after.”

The hon. MR. A. R. KNAPP:—“Orders have not yet been issued for taking up the work.”

MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“I am very glad to hear that, Sir.”

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.